



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. Army Forces Central Command - SA  
RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA  
APO AE 09852**



AFRD-SA-CDR

5 November 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Wear of Uniform and Civilian Clothes

1. This memorandum is an enclosure to ARCENT-SA Policy Letter 1, Prohibited Activities, to provide detailed guidance regarding the wear of uniforms and civilian clothes in the USCENTCOM AOR.

2. Uniform Wear.

a. General. The restrictions in this section apply to military uniforms, equipment, and government-issued clothing and equipment provided to civilians for their work in support of the U.S. Armed Forces. The term "uniform" as used in this section encompasses both types of clothing and equipment.

b. Uniforms in Vehicles: All vehicle occupants in uniform will be in complete uniform, except as set forth below. When traveling outside of military installations, no head cover will be worn. In addition, it is recommended that a civilian shirt or blouse be worn instead of the BDU blouse when traveling off post. Head cover does not have to be worn when inside a vehicle on a military installation.

c. Uniform Composition. The following rules must be followed in addition to all standard Army uniform requirements:

(1) Wearing uniform items in combination with civilian clothing items is prohibited, except as addressed above when traveling off-post in uniform.

(2) Head Cover: Only the desert BDU hat or "boonie hat," the desert BDU cap or "patrol cap," the beret or the Kevlar helmet with cover may be worn with the Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU). Altering bush caps into billed caps is prohibited (i.e., by shaping one or both sides to form an Australian bush hat or American cowboy hat).

(3) Mixing of tri-color and six color DCU items is prohibited, except that the tri-color DCU may be worn with the six-color Kevlar helmet cover.

(4) The DCU Blouse:

(a) The sleeves will be worn down, at all times.

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(b) The DCU blouse must always be worn, except that a supervisor may allow removal of the blouse, thus substituting the brown tee shirt as the outer garment, if both of the following conditions are met: First, the wearer must be working in an area not subject to view by Host Nation individuals; second, the supervisor must have determined that removal of the garment is appropriate due to the temperature and the type of work.

(c) Officers will wear branch insignia on their lapels. No general staff insignia will be authorized for wear.

(5) "Camel Tongue" Insignia of Rank:

(a) This is an optional item that may be worn by military personnel only. Civilians are prohibited from wearing it.

(b) If worn, the "camel tongue" must be buttoned to the inner button of the right pocket of the DCU blouse.

(c) Arabic lettering on the uniform is only authorized on the back of the bush hat. The ARCENT-SA Commander will approve exceptions to this Policy Letter on a case-by-case basis.

d. Authorized Head Cover:

(1) Effective immediately, ARCENT-SA personnel will wear the DCU cap (or patrol cap) with the DCU uniform. Officers will wear the non-subdued rank insignia on the DCU cap, NCO's and enlisted personnel will wear subdued rank insignia on the DCU cap.

(2) The beret will be the only authorized uniform head cover during ARCENT-SA non-tactical formations, including the end of month awards and promotion ceremonies and formations to honor visiting dignitaries, but not including routine, daily, and command maintenance formations. The DCU with beret will become the uniform of the day during these special events.

(3) Soldiers on work details may wear either the DCU cap or government issued "bush" hat at the discretion of the work detail supervisor.

3. Non-Uniform ("Civilian Clothing") Wear.

a. In Areas Reserved for U.S. Military Personnel. These "areas" are defined as locations within the physical boundaries of Eskan Village, Prince Sultan Air Base, other compounds with quarters assigned to U.S. military personnel and other compounds where U.S. military personnel have designated recreational access. In these areas, any civilian clothes may be worn that conform to standards of decency and appropriateness common in the United States.

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b. In Areas Not Reserved for U.S. Military Personnel. The following rules must be observed throughout the CENTCOM AOR when outside the locations described in paragraph 5a above.

(1) General Standards Applicable to Both Males and Females.

(a) Clothing must be loose fitting. It may not cling to or tightly fit the body.

(b) Clothing material must be opaque, not sheer, not transparent, and not revealing the wearer's body.

(c) T-shirts, shorts, cut-offs, bathing suits, body suits, tank-tops, and similar body-revealing clothing items will not be worn.

(d) Long pants must be worn by males while in transit to locations where shorts are considered acceptable wear, such as those areas listed in paragraph 5a or remote desert areas where interaction with the local populace is not expected, such as trips to visit the Edge of the World, Dirab or Arizona Golf Courses or hunts for desert diamonds. Shorts are not considered acceptable wear in any other locations.

(e) Clothing items of any type that may be offensive to Saudi Arabian community standards of decency or decorum will not be worn. Some examples of this type of prohibited clothing are any clothing items displaying the following: profane language; alcoholic beverage and drug logos, slogans or advertisements; representations of scantily clad or naked men or women; religious statements or quotations; representations of religious personages or symbols; national flags; derisive or negative comments about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This restriction applies to any item that may be worn by a person (e.g., hat, scarf, shirt, blouse, sweatshirt, jacket, bandanna, or sneakers).

(f) Religious medals or medallions may be worn in accordance with service regulations, but must not be visible. Only limited items of jewelry should be visible, such as watches, bracelets, rings, and wedding bands.

(g) Tattoos that may be offensive to Saudi sensibilities or customs must be concealed (e.g., profanities, scantily clad or naked people, or other depictions described at paragraph 9d above).

(2) Additional Clothing Requirements for Males.

(a) Soldiers may not wear bandannas or baseball caps; however, caps are acceptable on the golf course.

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(b) Only shirts with collar and sleeves will be worn. Shirts will not be unbuttoned below the collarbone. Shirts will be tucked into the trousers.

(c) Long trousers (e.g., Dockers or khakis) will be worn with trouser legs extending to at least the top of the shoes. Trousers must not be ragged or torn and must not have any holes. Jeans are highly discouraged and will not be worn downtown.

(d) No part of the traditional Host Nation attire (i.e., the thobe and guttra) may be worn unless at a U.S. only social event inside a building on the military installation.

(e) Earrings will not be worn.

(3) Clothing Requirement for Females in Saudi Arabia. Wear of the abaya by females is not mandatory. Women who wear the abaya may avoid harassment and possible physical and verbal abuse while traveling in and around Saudi Arabia. Females are not required to ride in the rear seat of vehicles, but are encouraged to do so.

(4) Additional Clothing Requirements for Females in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar.

(a) Upper arms and shoulders must be covered at all times. Sleeves must extend below the elbow, and, at a minimum, to the middle of the forearm.

(b) The collarbone must be covered at all times.

(c) For the upper body, large, blousy, oversized shirts, blouses, or tunics that conceal the torso must be worn. Shirts must have collars.

(d) The shirt or blouse must not be tucked in or tied at the waist.

(e) Skirts and dresses will fall below the knees to mid-calf or below, and will not be form-fitting.

(f) Slacks are allowable, provided that they are loose fitting and extend to at least the top of the shoes and must not be ragged, torn, or have any holes. Jeans are highly discouraged and will not be worn downtown.

(g) Tattoos on the ankles or lower legs must be concealed.

(h) No more than one earring may be worn on each ear.

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(i) Make-up and nail polish must be moderate and conform to the natural skin or lip color tone of the individual. False lashes and nails, as well as nail studs will not be worn.

(j) Wear of the abaya is optional. As noted above in paragraph 3.b.(3), women who wear the abaya may avoid harassment and possible physical and verbal abuse while traveling in and around the Middle East. If the abaya is worn, it must be snapped shut and the clothes underneath must conform to the rules in this Policy Letter. Wear of scarves over the head and hair is not required, however, in some locations it may be prudent to have a scarf in your possession, especially during Ramadan.

4. Dress Code at the Dining Facility:

a. Physical fitness clothing, military and civilian, may be worn in the Dining Facility if the clothes are clean. Soiled or sweaty clothing must never be worn into the Dining Facility.

b. Sandals may be worn in the Dining Facility, with or without socks.

c. Shirts or blouses must cover the underarm.

5. The ARCENT-SA Headquarters Compound is a “no hat, no salute” area. The ARCENT-SA Headquarters Compound is the fenced-in area which encompasses the offices of the ARCENT-SA Commander, Deputy Commander, Command Sergeant Major, G1, G2, G3, G4, G6, Public Affairs Office, Emergency Operations Center, and other ARCENT-SA elements.

6. Requirement to Possess Identification Tags and Cards. All personnel must, at all times, carry their military identification card and wear their identification tags (“dog tags”). Also all personnel will display their personal access badge on their outer garments at all times except:

a. When in their assigned residential villas;

b. When exercising or engaging in sports activities; or

c. At official functions where photos will be taken.

7. If the personal access badge cannot be displayed on the outer garment, it is required to be in the immediate possession of the individual.

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8. Leaders must ensure that their soldiers understand the requirements of this memorandum.

*//ORIGINAL SIGNED//*  
THOMAS H. STANTON  
COL, AD  
Commanding

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